FOUR SHOTS FIRED S-1 11/16/67

3 JFK Assassins, Yale Scholar Claims

Hurt and bleeding from a superficial back wound, President John F. Kennedy is raising his clenched fists in a reflex of pain.

In front and to the right of the presidential motorcade, businessman Abraham Zapruder of Dallas is grinding away at the grim scene with an 8 millimeter home movie camera.

So quickly that they almost blend, there are two shots from two different weapons.

One bullet strikes the President in the back of the head. The other blasts his skull above the right temple and his head disappears in a pink halo of blood.

THAT IS the grisly high dramatic point in a new book by a Phi Beta Kappa Yale scholar, Dr. Josiah Thompson, whose thesis is that there were four shots fired in Dealey Plaza by three assassins.

One of the shots, he says in "Six Seconds In Dallas," ripped though Texas Gov. John B. Connally. The other three found their mark in President Kennedy, and the last two killed him.

Published by Bernard Geis will be distributed by Random Associates, the 250-page work House beginning Nov. 27. A major excerpt will be published by The Saturday Evening Post in its Dec. 2 issue.

Thompson, now a professor at Haverford College, anchors his conclusions in three areas of study: (1) a microscopic examination of the Zapruder films and other photographs taken in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963; (2) a correlation of photographs with the oral statements of witnesses, and (3) a dissection of autopsy findings and what Thompson believes was the incompetency of the pathology team which performed the post mortem.

THE AUTHOR makes no effort to identify the group of assassins. Based solely upon what he concludes is the physical evidence, the 32-year-old researcher contends that Oswald did not act alone, as the Warren Commission maintained. Further, he makes these additional claims:

1. The controversial almost undistorted bullet found in Dallas' Parkland Hospital could not and did not pierce both the President and Gov. Connally. Instead, he says it was likely fired from a defective shell and lodged two inches deep in Kennedy's back.

2. Connally was hit by a second shot fired from the east side of Dealey Plaza, probably from the roof of the Dallas County Records Building across Elm st. from the Texas School Book Depository.

3. Kennedy's often debated neck wound probably was not caused by a bullet at all, but by a bone splinter driven downword by one of the skull shots.

4. **A HURRIED** and sloppily performed autopsy failed to reveal the existence of two head wounds instead of one. Later, the autopsy surgeons learned from Dallas doctors that there was a neck wound where they performed a futile tracheotomy. The body was by then gone, and the pathologists constructed a convenient fiction that the bullet which struck Kennedy in the back exited through his throat.

Thompson, who served as a consultant to Life Magazine, used the magazine's copy for his analysis. Both the author and Life's editors say that it is a far brighter and sharper version than those possessed by the FBI and the Warren Commission.

By overlaying frames from the film, Thompson set about to isolate the movements of all of the occupants of the Kennedy car.

He says it is obvious from Connally's reactions that he could not have been hit by the first bullet which hit Kennedy.

Having once destroyed the "single bullet theory," Thompson writes, there can be only one conclusion: that Connally and the President were shot by different gunmen.

The author uses both eyewitness testimony and Zapruder film analysis to establish his conclusion that the President was struck almost simultaneously by two bullets fired to the head—one from the rear, the other from the grassy knoll.

IT IS evident in the Zapruder film, he says, that Kennedy's head first snaps forward as if struck from behind. In the next instant, he says, it is knocked sharply backward, and the President falls to his left into Mrs. Kennedy's arms. The sharp backward movement was, he says, consistent with a shot from the right front.

Thompson says the first, nonfatal slug fell from the President's back during heart massage in Parkland Hospital's emergency room; was picked up by a souvenir-hunting staff member and guiltily deposited on a hall stretcher when the scavenger realized its importance.

Perhaps the book's most compelling moment is Thompson's conjecture about Oswald's role in the killing and the photographs he uses to support his reasoning. He says the photos show two—not one—manlike figures in the sixth-floor school book depository windows.

Later, one of them—dressed in a brown coat—is seen to run from the building and race away in a white compact car driven by a man with a very dark complexion, he claims.

Was Oswald one of the two on the sixth floor? Thompson does not believe he was—and in detail tells why.